

Furman Magazine

Volume 50
Issue 3 Fall 2007

Article 15

9-1-2007

History professor receives two major awards

Furman University

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Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2007) "History professor receives two major awards," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 50 : Iss. 3 , Article 15.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol50/iss3/15>

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Khandke's open-door policy serves students well

Walk into Kailash Khandke's office and he will greet you warmly, inquire sincerely about your interests and converse with you at length. You'd never know he was a busy professor recently named to a new assistant deanship.

Khandke, who was awarded the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Teaching at the 2007 Commencement, has shaped his professorial style around this open-door policy. In fact, he wishes more students would take advantage of his office hours.

"E-mailing a question is not the same as sitting down in an office," he says. "I often use my office time as a vehicle to mentor at various levels."

Khandke, the Robert E. Hughes Professor of Economics and Asian Studies, tries to tailor his approach to each student. He patiently guides struggling students, working step by step through their questions. As one student attests, "He always takes out a sheet of paper and does not let you leave until you have understood what he is trying to say."

Yet Khandke says he's careful not to "spoon-feed" answers. He tells students, "You go think about it and come back tomorrow."

He also takes the time to urge those students who excel in his courses to major in economics. His approach yields impressive results. In recent years, Khandke has taught fewer than 12 percent of Furman students taking the introductory economics course, but 27 percent of the department's majors were in Khandke's intro class. That's quite a record, especially considering that Khandke is known for his exacting, rigorous style.

Yet Khandke does not encourage students to choose a major precipitously. Instead, he asks them to consider potential careers, posing the question, "What might you do with this degree?"

As one recent graduate said, "Dr. Khandke's lectures in macroeconomic analysis inspired me

to pursue a career in public policy because he showed how to synthesize the theoretical principles of the field to solve real world economic problems."

His teaching and mentoring skills doubtless contributed to his recent appointment as assistant dean for study away and international education. In this role he plans to foster closer coordination between the study away and international student programs. One of his major tasks will be to adapt Furman's study away programs to the new academic calendar, which goes into effect next year.

Khandke feels a special bond with international students because he was one himself. In 1986 he left India to study at the University of California-Davis, where he earned his graduate degrees. He joined the Furman faculty in 1995.

He believes his background helps him empathize with the struggles faced by interna-



tional students. And he says that these students can be "catalysts to making students audacious enough to study away."

Khandke, who will continue to teach part time, has traveled to Busan, South Korea, with other Furman faculty and students to participate in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference. He is also the director of an exchange program with a university in Kortrijk, Belgium, and is helping to develop Furman's first study away trip to India this winter.

— ELIZABETH COOKE '08



History professor receives two major awards

Monica Black has been a member of the Furman history faculty for just one term, but she has already received two top honors.

She has been awarded the Fritz Stern Prize for having one of the two best doctoral dissertations in the field of German history for 2006. She also received a Dr. Richard M. Hunt Fellowship for the Study of German Politics, Society and Culture from the American Council on Germany.

The Stern Prize is given annually by the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Black traveled to Washington in November to receive the prize and present a talk. She will use the Hunt Fellowship to conduct research in Germany next summer.

Her award-winning dissertation is titled "The Meaning of Death and the Making of Three Berlins: A History, 1933-1961." It examines changing rituals of and attitudes toward death in the City of Berlin over a period of radical social, political and ideological change.

Black earned her doctorate from the University of Virginia, where she received the 2006 Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Humanities and Social Sciences.